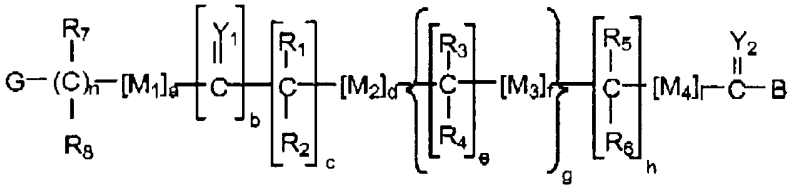
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A compound comprising the formula:



(I)

wherein:

G is a linear or branched polymer residue;

Y_1 and Y_2 are independently O, S, or NR_9;

M_1-M_3 are independently O, S, or NR_{10},

M_4 is X or Q;

wherein X is an electron withdrawing group and Q is a moiety containing a free electron pair positioned three to six atoms from $C(=Y_2)$;

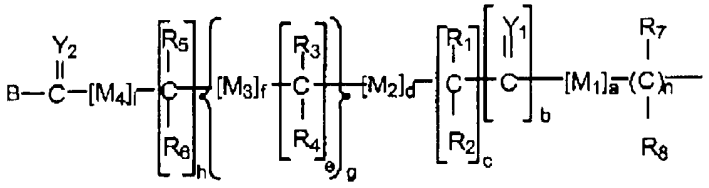
B is a residue of an amine-containing moiety or a residue of a hydroxyl-containing moiety;

$R_{1\text{-}10}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyls, $C_{3\text{-}12}$ branched alkyls, $C_{3\text{-}8}$ cycloalkyls, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ substituted alkyls, $C_{3\text{-}8}$ substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ heteroalkyls and substituted $C_{1\text{-}6}$ heteroalkyls;

a, b, c, d, [e, f, g,] h, i and *n* are each independently zero or a positive integer; and

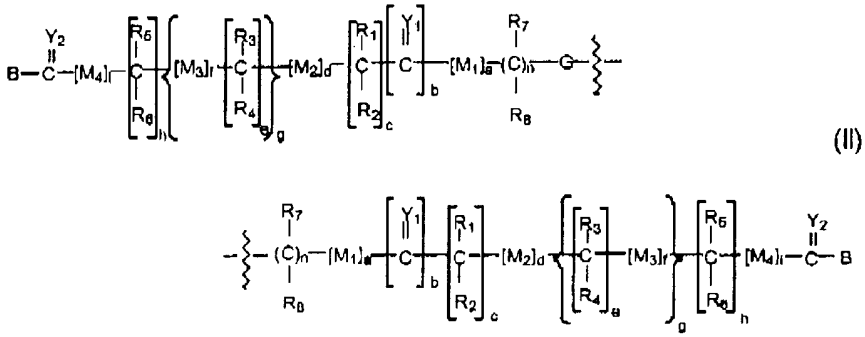
e, f and *g* are each independently a positive integer.

2. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein G includes a capping group A, selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, CO_2H, C_{1-6} alkyl moieties, and



(IIf)

3. (Original) A compound of claim 2, of the formula:



(II)

4. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein *a, b, c, d,* [*e, f, g,*] *h, i* and *n* are independently zero, one or two.

5. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein Y_1 and Y_2 are both O.

6. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein M_2 is NH and *d* is one.

7. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein R_7 and R_8 are both H.

8. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein *n* is 1.

9. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein *a* is 0.

10. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein *a* is 1.

11. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein *c* is 0.

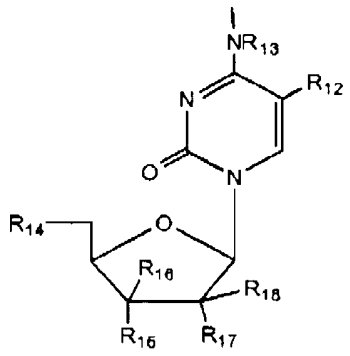
12. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein *g* is 2, M_3 is O, *e* is 2, *f* is 1 and R_3 and R_4 are H.

13. (Original) The compound of claim 12, wherein *b, d, h* and *n* are 1, R_5 and R_6 are H and M_2 is NH.

14. (Original) The compound of claim 12, wherein *b, d* and *n* are 1, M_2 is NH and R_3 and R_4 are H.

15. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein B is a residue of an amine - containing moiety.

16. (Original) The compound of claim 15, wherein said amine-containing moiety is



wherein

R_{12-13} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyls, C_{3-12} branched alkyls, C_{3-8} cycloalkyls, C_{1-6} substituted alkyls, C_{3-8} substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, halo, substituted aryls, aralkyls, C_{1-6} heteroalkyls, substituted C_{1-6} heteroalkyls;

R_{14-18} are independently selected from alkoxy, e.g. OR_{19} or, in the alternative, H, OH, N_3, NHR_{20}, NO_2 or CN, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, where R_{19-20} are independently selected from

the same group which defines $R_{12\text{-}13}$.

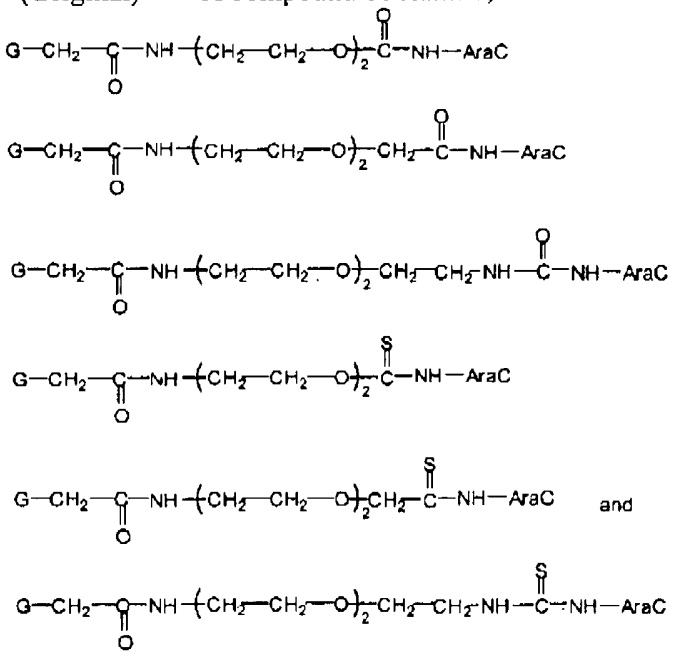
17. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein G is O-$(CH_2CH_2O)_x$ or O-$(CH(CH_3)CH_2O)_x$, wherein x is the degree of polymerization.

18. (Original) The compound of claim 17, wherein G is O-$(CH_2CH_2O)_x$ and x is a positive integer selected so that the weight average molecular weight is at least about 20,000.

19. (Original) The compound of claim 18, wherein G has a weight average molecular weight of from about 20,000 to about 100,000.

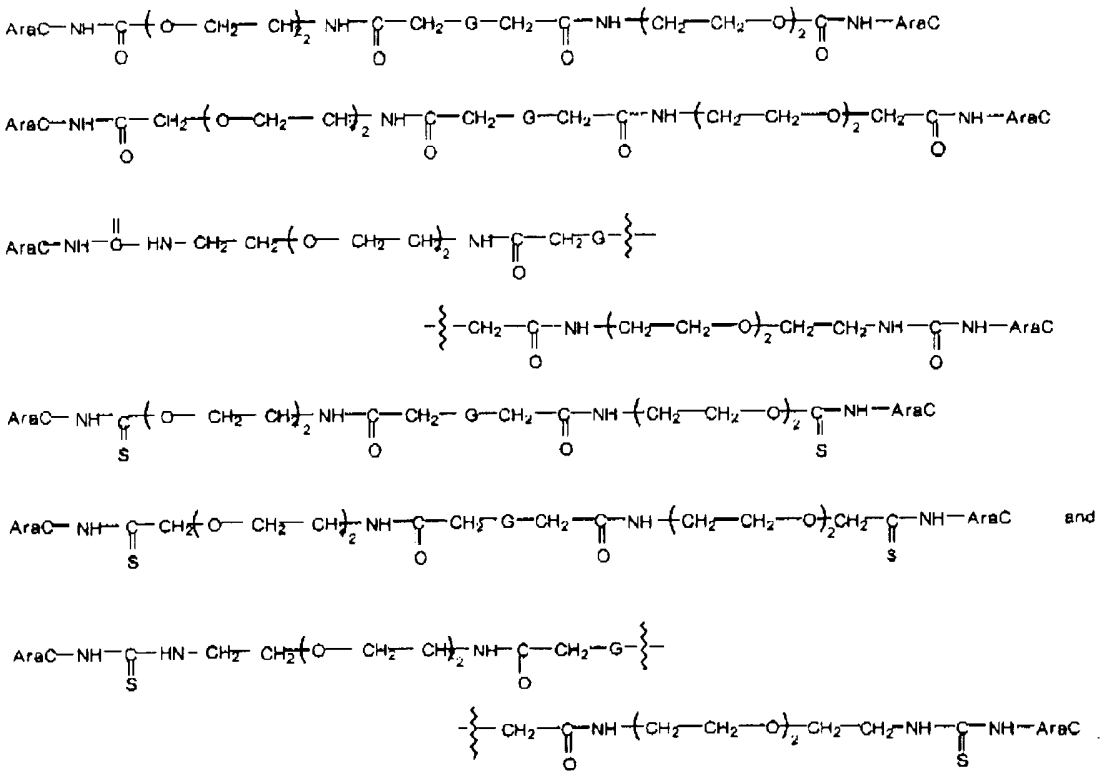
20. (Original) The compound of claim 21, wherein G has a weight average molecular weight of from about 25,000 to about 60,000.

21. (Original) A compound of claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:



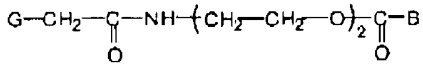
and

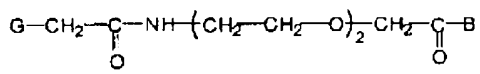
22. (Original) A compound of claim 3, selected from the group consisting of:

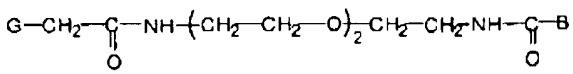


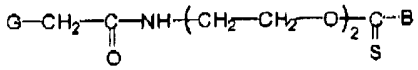
and

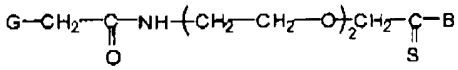
23. (Original) A compound of claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:











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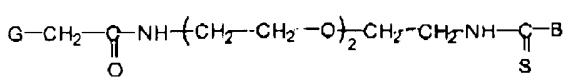
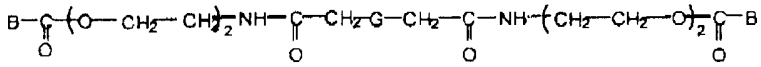
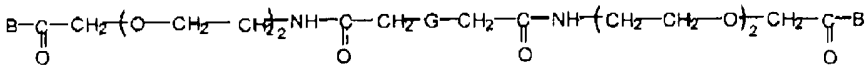
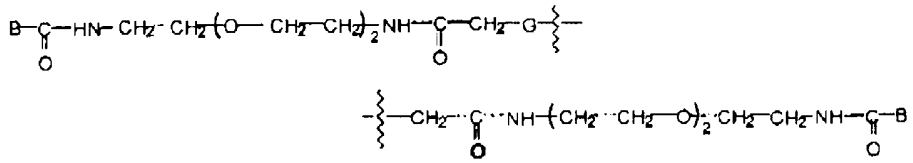
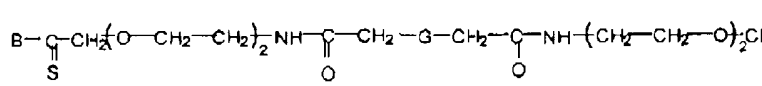


24. (Original) A compound of claim 3, selected from the group consisting of:









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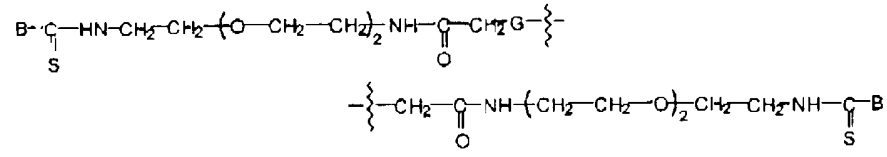
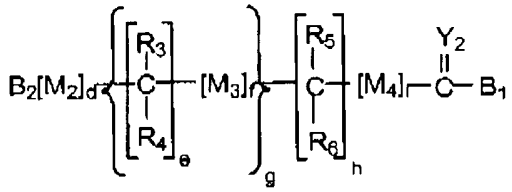


25. (Currently amended) A method of preparing a polymeric conjugate, comprising:

a) reacting a biologically active moiety having an unprotected amine or

b) hydroxyl group with a compound of the formula



(III)

wherein

B_1 is a leaving group capable of reacting with an unprotected amine or hydroxyl group;

B_2 is a cleavable protecting group;

Y_2 is O, S, or NR_9;

M_2-M_3 are independently O, S, or NR_{10};

M_4 is X or Q;

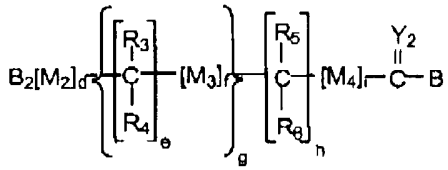
wherein X is an electron withdrawing group and Q is a moiety containing a free electron pair positioned three to six atoms from $C(=Y_2)$;

$R_{3\text{-}6}$, R_9 and R_{10} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyls, $C_{3\text{-}12}$ branched alkyls, $C_{3\text{-}8}$ cycloalkyls, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ substituted alkyls, $C_{3\text{-}8}$ substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ heteroalkyls and substituted $C_{1\text{-}6}$ heteroalkyls;

d, [*e*, *f*, *g*,] *h*, and *i* are each independently zero or a positive integer; and

e, *f* and *g* are each independently a positive integer

to form a protected intermediate of the formula:



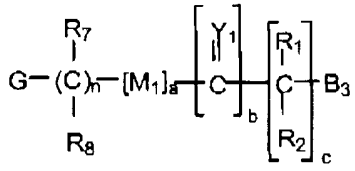
(IV)

wherein

B is a residue of an amine-containing moiety or a residue of a hydroxyl-containing moiety;

b) deprotecting the resultant intermediate by removing B_2; and

c) reacting the deprotected intermediate with a compound of the formula



(V)

wherein

B_3 is a leaving group;

G is a polymer residue;

Y_1 is O, S, or NR_9;

M_1 is O, S, or NR_{10};

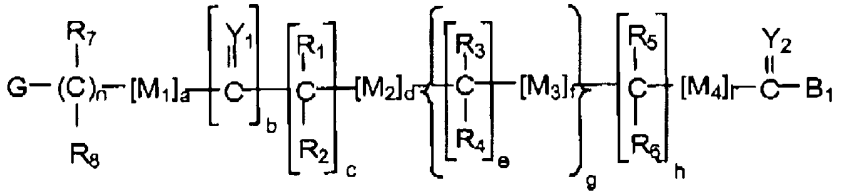
R_1, R_2, R_7, R_9 and R_{10} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyls, C_{3-12} branched alkyls, C_{3-8} cycloalkyls, C_{1-6} substituted alkyls, C_{3-8} substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls, C_{1-6} heteroalkyls and substituted C_{1-6} heteroalkyls; and

a, *b* and *c* are each independently zero or a positive integer,

whereby a polymeric conjugate is formed.

26. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a polymeric conjugate, comprising:

[a)] reacting a polymer-spacer intermediate of the formula



(V)

wherein

B_1 is a leaving group capable of reacting with an unprotected amine or hydroxyl group;

G is a polymer residue;

Y_1 and Y_2 are independently O, S, or NR_9;

M_1-M_3 are independently O, S, or NR_{10};

M_4 is X or Q;

wherein X is an electron withdrawing group and Q is a moiety containing a free electron pair positioned three to six atoms from $C(=Y_2)$;

B is a residue of an amine-containing moiety or a residue of a hydroxyl-containing moiety;

$R_{1\text{-}10}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyls, $C_{3\text{-}12}$ branched alkyls, $C_{3\text{-}8}$ cycloalkyls, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ substituted alkyls, $C_{3\text{-}8}$ substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ heteroalkyls and substituted $C_{1\text{-}6}$ heteroalkyls;

a, b, c, d, [*e, f, g,*] *h, i* and *n* are each independently zero or a positive integer; and

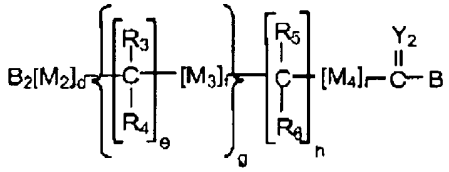
e, f and *g* are each independently a positive integer;

and thereafter reacting intermediate with a biologically active moiety having an unprotected amine or hydroxyl group to form the polymeric conjugate.

27. (Original) A method of treatment, comprising:
administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 1, wherein B is a residue of a biologically active moiety.

28. (Original) A method of treatment, comprising:
administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 3, wherein B is a residue of a biologically active moiety.

29. (Original) A compound of the formula:



(IV)

wherein

B is a residue of an amine-containing moiety or a residue of a hydroxyl-containing moiety;

B_2 is a cleavable protecting group;

Y_2 is O, S, or NR_9;

M_2-M_4 are independently O, S, or NR_{10}.

M_4 is X or Q;

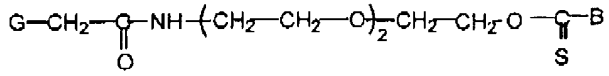
wherein X is an electron withdrawing group and Q is a moiety containing a free electron pair positioned three to six atoms from $C(=Y_2)$;

$R_{3\text{-}6,\ 9\ \text{and}\ 10}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyls,

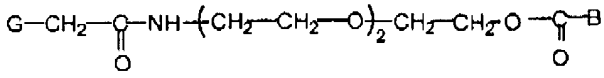
C_{3-12} branched alkyls, C_{3-8} cycloalkyls, C_{1-6} substituted alkyls, C_{3-8} substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls, C_{1-6} heteroalkyls and substituted C_{1-6} heteroalkyls;

d, e, f, g, h, and *i* are each independently zero or a positive integer.

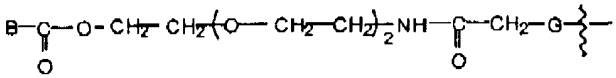
30. (Original) A compound of claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

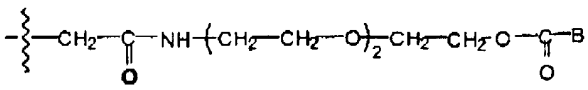


and

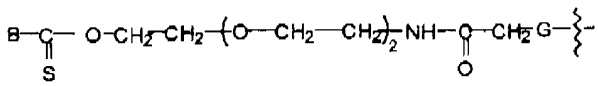


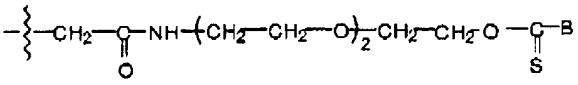
31. (Original) A compound of claim 3, selected from the group consisting of:





and





32. (New) The compound of claim 1, wherein *e, f* and *g* are each independently one or two.